

Remarks

Claims 1-24 are currently pending in the Application.

Allowable Claims

Applicants acknowledge with gratitude the Examiner's indication of allowability as to Claims 3-6, 14-18, 21, 23 and 24.

Claim amendments

This response amends Claims 1-3, 9, 12, 19 and 22 to clarify the scope of the invention. Support for the amendments can be found, for example, in Figures 4 and 7a. No new matter has been added.

35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection in view of Dickens and Loo

Claims 1-2, 8 and 12-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious in view of Dickens (U.S. Patent No. 6,657,525) and further in view of Loo (U.S. Patent No. 6,440,767).

Claim 1

Applicants submit that Dickens and Loo do not disclose, suggest or teach, *inter alia*, at least the following features recited by amended Claim 1 of the present application:

“the impedance matching structure including only one protuberance or hump to increase the width of a portion of the RF line immediately adjacent the RF contact to greater than the width of a portion of the RF line removed from the RF contact” (emphasis added)

The Examiner asserts that the “only one protuberance or hump” as recited in Claim 1 is disclosed by Loo’s RF line sections “18 and 20.” See page 3, lines 3-5 of the Official Action. The Examiner also asserts that the “protuberance or hump” as recited in Claim 1 is disclosed by Dickens’ conductors “42 and 43.” See page 2, last paragraph of the Official Action.

The Examiner further asserts that it would have been obvious for one skilled in the art to replace Dickens' conductors "42 and 43" with Loo's RF line sections "18 and 20." See page 3, last paragraph of the Official Action. Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's assertion.

According to Loo, the RF line sections "18 and 20" increase in width as they get farther away from Loo's armature "16." See Figure 1 of Loo. Similarly, Dickens' conductors "42 and 43" increase in width as they get farther away from Dickens' bridge structure "46." See Figure 2a of Dickens. Applicants submit that neither Loo nor Dickens disclose conductors being narrower as they get farther away from the switch structure. Because Loo and Dickens both teach conductors getting wider as they get farther from the switch structure, Loo and Dickens do not teach, disclose or suggest "the impedance matching structure including only one protuberance or hump to increase the width of a portion of the RF line immediately adjacent the RF contact to greater than the width of a portion of the RF line removed from the RF contact" as recited in amended Claim 1.

Applicants submit that neither Loo nor Dickens disclose, suggest or teach "the impedance matching structure including only one protuberance or hump to increase the width of a portion of the RF line immediately adjacent the RF contact to greater than the width of a portion of the RF line removed from the RF contact" as recited in amended Claim 1, because conductors disclosed in Loo and Dickens get wider as they get farther from the switch structure. Hence, Claim 1 is patentable over Loo and Dickens and should be allowed by the Examiner.

Claims 2 and 8 depend from Claim 1. "If an independent claim is nonobvious under 35 U.S.C. 103, then any claim depending therefrom is nonobvious." *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988). Therefore, in light of the above discussion of Claim 1, Applicants submit that Claims 2 and 8 are also allowable.

Claim 12

Applicants submit that, at least for the reasons stated above for Claim 1, neither Loo nor Dickens disclose, suggest or teach “the impedance matching structure comprising a single first protuberance disposed on the substrate to increase the width of a portion of the first RF line immediately adjacent the first one of the two closeable RF contacts to greater than the width of a portion of the first RF line removed from the first one of the two closeable RF contacts and a single second protuberance disposed on the substrate to increase the width of a portion of the second RF line immediately adjacent the second one of the two closeable RF contacts to greater than the width of a portion of the second RF line removed from the second one of the two closeable RF contacts” as recited in amended Claim 12. Hence, Claim 12 is patentable over Loo and Dickens and should be allowed by the Examiner. Claim 13, at least based on its dependency on Claim 12, is also allowable.

35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection in view of Loo and Loo

Claims 1, 7, 9-12, 19-20 and 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious in view of Loo (U.S. Patent No. 6,046,659) and further in view of Loo (U.S. Patent No. 6,440,767).

Claim 1

Applicants submit that Loo ‘659 and Loo ‘767 do not disclose, suggest or teach, *inter alia*, at least the following features recited by amended Claim 1 of the present application:

“the impedance matching structure including only one protuberance or hump to increase the width of a portion of the RF line immediately adjacent the RF contact to greater than the width of a portion of the RF line removed from the RF contact” (emphasis added)

The Examiner asserts that the “only one protuberance or hump” as recited in Claim 1 is disclosed by Loo ‘767’s RF line sections “18 and 20” and Loo ‘659’s lines “18 and 20” See page 3-5, of the Official Action.

The Examiner further asserts that it would have been obvious for one skilled in the art to replace Loo '659's lines "18 and 20" with Loo '767's RF line sections "18 and 20." See page 5, last paragraph of the Official Action. Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's assertion.

As stated above, according to Loo '767, the RF line sections "18 and 20" increase in width as they get farther away from Loo's armature "16." See Figure 1 of Loo '767. According to Loo '659, lines "18 and 20" are of uniform thickness through out their entire length. See Figure 3 of Loo '659. Applicants submit that neither Loo '767 nor Loo '659 disclose conductors that get narrower as the get farther away from the switch structure. Because Loo '659 and Loo '767 both do not teach conductors being narrower as they get father from the switch structure, Loo '659 and Loo '767 do not teach, disclose or suggest "the impedance matching structure including only one protuberance or hump to increase the width of a portion of the RF line immediately adjacent the RF contact to greater than the width of a portion of the RF line removed from the RF contact" as recited in amended Claim 1.

Applicants submit that neither Loo '659 nor Loo '767 disclose, suggest or teach "the impedance matching structure including only one protuberance or hump to increase the width of a portion of the RF line immediately adjacent the RF contact to greater than the width of a portion of the RF line removed from the RF contact" as recited in amended Claim 1, because conductors disclosed in Loo '659 are of uniform thickness and conductors disclosed in Loo '767 get wider as they get farther from the switch structure. Hence, Claim 1 is patentable over Loo '659 and Loo '767 and should be allowed by the Examiner. Claim 7, at least based on its dependency on Claim 1, is also allowable.

Claim 9

Applicants submit that, at least for the reasons stated above for Claim 1, neither Loo '659 nor Loo '767 disclose, suggest or teach "wherein each of the two RF contacts has an associated single protuberance or hump to increase the width of a portion of the RF conductor immediately adjacent thereto to greater than the width of a portion of the RF

conductor removed from the RF contacts” as recited in amended Claim 9. Hence, Claim 9 is patentable over Loo ‘659 and Loo ‘767 and should be allowed by the Examiner. Claims 10-11, at least based on their dependency on Claim 9, are also allowable.

Claim 12

Applicants submit that, at least for the reasons stated above for Claim 1, neither Loo ‘659 nor Loo ‘767 disclose, suggest or teach “the impedance matching structure comprising a single first protuberance disposed on the substrate to increase the width of a portion of the first RF line immediately adjacent the first one of the two closeable RF contacts to greater than the width of a portion of the first RF line removed from the first one of the two closeable RF contacts and a single second protuberance disposed on the substrate to increase the width of a portion of the second RF line immediately adjacent the second one of the two closeable RF contacts to greater than the width of a portion of the second RF line removed from the second one of the two closeable RF contacts” as recited in amended Claim 12. Hence, Claim 12 is patentable over Loo ‘659 and Loo ‘767and should be allowed by the Examiner.

Claim 19

Applicants submit that, at least for the reasons stated above for Claim 1, neither Loo ‘659 nor Loo ‘767 disclose, suggest or teach “a first element of said at least one capacitor being formed by a single protuberance formed to increase the width of a portion of a RF line disposed on said substrate immediately adjacent to a RF switch contact on the substrate to greater than the width of a portion of the RF line removed from the RF switch contact” as recited in amended Claim 19. Hence, Claim 19 is patentable over Loo ‘659 and Loo ‘767and should be allowed by the Examiner. Claims 20, at least based on its dependency on Claim 19, is also allowable.

Claim 22

Applicants submit that, at least for the reasons stated above for Claim 1, neither Loo ‘659 nor Loo ‘767 disclose, suggest or teach “each pad coupled to a signal line having a single protuberance or hump to increase the width of a portion of the signal line adjacent the pad

to greater than the width of a portion of the signal line removed from the pad" as recited in amended Claim 22. Hence, Claim 22 is patentable over Loo '659 and Loo '767 and should be allowed by the Examiner.

The Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned to discuss any other issues requiring resolution.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of all the claims are respectfully solicited.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required or credit overpayment to deposit account no. 12-0415. In particular, if this response is not timely filed, then the Commissioner is authorized to treat this response as including a petition to extend the time period pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136 (a) requesting an extension of time of the number of months necessary to make this response timely filed and the petition fee due in connection therewith may be charged to deposit account no. 12-0415.

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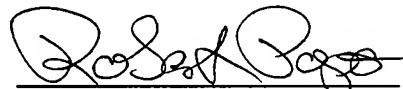
January 4, 2006
(Date of Deposit)

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